

STATE OF NEVADA  
BOARD OF HEARING AID SPECIALIST

MINUTES

JUNE 15, 2002 MEETING

1. Call To Order, Welcome and Roll Call

Chair Lloyd convened the regular meeting of the Nevada State Board of Hearing Aid Specialists to order at 10:25 A.M., in the Auditorium of the Reno Downtown Library in Reno, Nevada. Roll call showed the following members present:

Board Members:

Chair Susan Lloyd  
Member Denise Buffa  
Member Laurie Abdo-Carreira

Board Members Absent:

Ralph Coppola, Member  
Carl Taute, Member

Staff:

Christina Harper, Board Administrator  
George Campbell, Board Counsel

Chair Lloyd determined that a quorum was present.

Public:

Thomas Rainford, Hearing Aid Specialist

Chair Lloyd welcomed everyone to the meeting and stated that there was a quorum present.

2. Approval of Minutes; January 26, 2002 Regular Board Meeting Minutes

The following amendments were made to the minutes: Page 2, Item #5, ...30-day return period – begins when [with] the consumer receives the hearing aids and leaves the office with then and the 30-day period [can] will restart when the hearing aids are returned [for] from repair within the original 30-day period.; Page 3, Item #6.D., ...requesting clarification is the request [is] for CEU approval...; Page 8, Item #10, 3<sup>rd</sup>

paragraph, ...Mr. Rainford stated that in a [currently] *current* report 65%...; 4<sup>th</sup> paragraph, ...Dave Barber expressed his pleasure for [servicing] *serving* the individuals...

Member Abdo-Carreira moved to approve the minutes as amended, seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.

### 3. Review and Possible Amendments to Policy Procedure Manual

The Board discussed the Policy Manual and suggested minor amendments to the Air Transportation Section to include that a Board Member can purchase their own airline ticket at their own risk of being reimbursed. Mrs. Harper informed the Board that airline tickets must be purchased with the Diner's Club Card in order to qualify for the state rate. The Board agreed that application for licensure must be received six weeks prior to the next Board meeting to be considered at that Board meeting. The Board requested that the percent weighted score to determine if a person passes the exam or not, with a passing score of 75% on each individual exam and overall score of 80%. The Board also requested that definitions be included in the Policy Manual.

Member Abdo-Carreira moved to accept the Policy Manual as amended, seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.

### 4. Workshop to Solicit Comments for NAC 637A.185 – Code of Ethics

Chair Lloyd opened the workshop for comments at 10:35 A.M. There was one individual in attendance. There were no comments. Chair Lloyd closed the public hearing at 10:38 A.M.

### 5. Public Hearing to Possibly Adopt Amendments to NAC 637A.185 – Code of Ethics

Chair Lloyd opened the public hearing at 10:38 A.M. There was one individual in attendance. There were no written or public comments. There being no comments, Chair Lloyd closed the public hearing at 10:40 A.M.

Member Abdo-Carreira moved to accept the proposed amendments to NAC 637A.185 to the Code of Ethics, seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.

### 6. Report of Board Chair

#### A. Schedule Next Board Meeting

The next Board meeting was scheduled for November 16, 2002 in Las Vegas.

B. Schedule Next Licensure Examination

The next licensure examination was scheduled for September 28, 2002 in Las Vegas. The Board requested that the examination begin at 9:00 A.M. in either a library or an airport meeting room.

C. Approval of Continuing Education Units

1. Discussion of Internet Courses and Are They Eligible for Renewal CEU's

The Board discussed the possibility of accepting internet courses for CEU renewal credits for a Hearing Aid Specialist License. Chair Lloyd stated that she supports the idea, as long as an examination at the end of the course is a requirement. It was discussed that the courses must be accredited by ASHA and the AAA. The credits must also be hearing aid based continuing education units. There was a discussion regarding if there is a limit to the number of hours an individual could accumulate for renewal CEU's. There was a Board consensus that there is no limit.

Member Abdo-Carreira moved to accept the Continuing Education Unit Internet courses from AAA, ASHA, and IHIS, there must be an examination required at the end of course, and the course must be hearing aid oriented, seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.

D. Review of Bill Draft Request Submitted to the Budget Office

Board Administrator Harper reviewed the Bill Draft Request that was submitted to the Budget Office for consideration. The Bill Draft Request referenced NRS 637A.210 and an overall increase in the fees charged to Hearing Aid Specialists.

Following a review of the Bill Draft Request, Member Abdo-Carreira moved to approve the Bill Draft Request to increase fees, seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.

Tom Rainford expressed concern that the present licensure fees in the State of Nevada for Hearing Aid Specialist are already the highest in the nation.

E. Discussion Regarding Contracts and Regulation Compliance

Member Abdo-Carreira stated that at the last meeting she indicated that she would draft a Purchase Agreement for discussion. There was discussion that definitions for, "digital, programmable, and analog" should be in regulation and then could be listed on the purchase agreement form.

A subcommittee of Member Abdo-Carreira and Mr. Rainford was formed and directed to work on definitions for regulation and a draft purchase agreement including the definitions.

At the next meeting the Board will review the definitions and draft purchase agreement form. The Board also request a review of NAC 637A.230, the regulation that discusses contracts.

The Board directed Mrs. Harper to send a copy of the current Nevada Revised Statutes and Nevada Administrative Code to all of the Hearing Aid Specialists and Apprentices that renew for 2002-2003, with a letter indicating that there have been amendments to the regulations.

7. Report of Secretary/Treasurer

A. Financial Report; B. Additional Billing for the 2000-2001 Audit

Mrs. Harper explained that she has recently hired Al Kenneson as the bookkeeper for the Board. There will be a more detailed financial statement at the November meeting.

Mrs. Harper informed the Board that Kohn-Colodny has submitted an additional billing of \$636.00 for final fees for the preparation of financial audit. It was explained that the Board has already paid Kohn-Colodny \$4,693.00 for the audit.

The Board directed Mrs. Harper to send Kohn-Colodny a letter indicating that the billing for the audit has already been paid in full and ask Kohn-Colodny to please correct their accounting records.

8. Report of Board Administrator

A. Application Profiles

The Board reviewed David Oswalt's application. The Board directed Mrs. Harper to call and determine if Mr. Oswalt is still practicing or not (he currently does not have a sponsor and is ineligible to practice). The Board also directed Mrs. Harper to determine the status of his license in California and what did Mr. Oswalt do for NuEar. The Board indicated that if Mr. Oswalt is practicing they would inflict discipline and there would be no Nevada license and no opportunity to take the licensure examination.

The Board reviewed Ms. Janine Chambers' application for a Hearing Aid Specialist Apprentice. It was discussed that this individual attended Audioprosology School in Germany.

Member Abdo-Carreira moved that Ms. Chambers can be licensed as a Hearing Aid Specialist Apprentice when all of the appropriate paperwork is received with no negative reports and when she has completed the home study course, seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.

B. Licensee Examination Results from April 13, 2002

Mrs. Harper informed the Board that Richard Johnson passed the examination and is now licensed.

C. Review of Quarterly Reports for Apprentices

The Board reviewed the quarterly reports. The Board was pleased with the new forms and stated that they are easy to read and determine what experience the Apprentice is receiving on one form.

The Board reviewed the quarterly reports. Mrs. Harper stated that David Groom is no longer the sponsor for John Alba and has no sponsor at this time. It was discussed that an Apprentice must have direct on-site supervision.

The Board questioned if Thomas Mullen has a Hearing Aid Specialist License? Mrs. Harper will check and report at the next meeting.

Mrs. Harper informed the Board that Cara McKay will be beginning her sponsorship with Karin Bunderson on June 17, 2002, at the University Medical Center.

D. Complaints

#0999090 – The Board Administrator and the Deputy Attorney General have extensively reviewed this complaint and recommend Dismissal, as the consumer missed the 30-day return period. Mrs. Harper and Mr. Campbell also recommended that the Board may want to develop regulations that address rural issues in areas where a licensee only services an area every 30/60/90 days.

Member Abdo-Carreira moved to dismiss this complaint, seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.

#02-01-040 – After a review of the complaint, the Board Administrator recommended dismissal, as the consumer waited beyond the 30 days in which to request a refund.

Member Abdo-Carreira moved to dismiss the complaint, seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.

#01-01-006 – Chair Lloyd stated that the return was requested within the 30 day period. Chair Lloyd stated that this complaint warrants further records and investigation.

#01-01-009 – Chair Lloyd stated that the patient did receive a refund. Chair Lloyd requested that Mr. Campbell review this case as the consumer paid and the insurance company was also billed.

#00-08-003 – Member Abdo-Carreira stated that she is waiting for additional information to be received from the Hearing Aid Specialist.

#00-08-005 – Member Abdo-Carreira stated that she is waiting for additional information to be received from the Hearing Aid Specialist.

#1199202 - - Member Abdo-Carreira stated that she is waiting for additional information to be received from the Hearing Aid Specialist.

Mrs. Harper stated that since January 2002, 15 complaint forms have been mailed out and 13 licensure application forms have been mailed out. Mrs. Harper stated that five new complaints have recently been received.

Member Abdo-Carreira stated that she would be willing to perform investigations for the Board, when her term is up.

#### 9. Report to the Attorney General

Deputy Attorney General Campbell stated that he continues to work on settlements regarding complaints for the Board.

Mr. Campbell suggested that the Board discuss, at their next meeting, the rural 30-day issue for returns wherein a licensee only services an area every 30/60/90 days, a more detailed process for investigations and processing of complaints, and contract provisions or minimum standard terms.

#### 10. Public Comment

Thomas Rainford suggested numerous changes to the Nevada Statute. Mr. Rainford stated that there are individuals trying to sell hearing aid devices without a hearing aid license. These individuals do not test and basically are not really selling the instruments, but do charge a consultation fee.

#### 11. Adjournment of Meeting

Member Abdo-Carreira moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:35 P.M., seconded by Member Buffa. The motion passed unanimously.